

E-Center News

Spring 2005

Graduate update

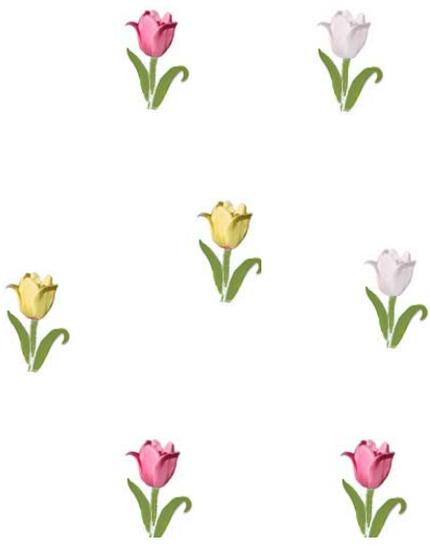
Remember Altex Packaging, Inc.? Randall Rigsby started his company at the E-Center in 1999 with one employee, his mother. In 2001, he graduated from the E-Center with over \$3 million in annual sales and 13 employees-- none being his mother. Randall then expanded his business to include manufacturing of corrugated packaging. In 2004, Altex Packaging, Inc. was awarded the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce's Small Business of the Year. Currently, the company owns three facilities and employs 55 people!! Altex Packaging has been a remarkable success and we wish them the best for their continued prosperity.



Recent Events

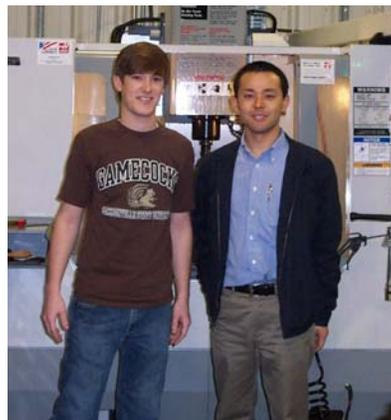


E-Center tenant Changer & Dresser Corporation hosts guests from parent company, Kyokutoh, located in Nagoya, Japan.





Pictured (left to right) is Pam Dunn, Marcus Dunn, JSU Intern Matt Crowe, and Sharon Cash of CD Covenant Distributors. This mutually beneficial relationship allows Matt Crowe to earn course credit to complete his undergraduate degree while at the same time providing the company with assistance towards ISO 9000 Certification.



Josh Jones (left) an intern from JSU, gains experience in manufacturing as an employee of Changer & Dresser Corporation. Pictured on the right is Yusuke Nakano.

...ENTREPRENEUR STATISTICS...



REPORT OFFERS 'GEMS' OF ENTREPRENEUR INSIGHT

In its sixth-annual and largest-ever survey, the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor finds that entrepreneurship is alive and well. The report, directed by Babson College and the London Business School, contains the results of the survey of 34 countries representing 784 million workers worldwide. Following are some of the report's findings.

Across the globe, 73 million people own or manage a new business. Entrepreneurs tend to be young, with most falling in the 25-to-34 age bracket regardless of their nationality or income level. Low-income countries, though, have the highest level of entrepreneurial activity across all age groups. In high-income countries, entrepreneurs tend to be well-educated and driven by innovation; entrepreneurship in low-income countries occurs among those with less education who need an income.

On average, it costs \$53,673 to start a business anywhere in the world -- and in 99.9 percent of cases, that money comes from the pockets of the entrepreneur and family and friends. Entrepreneurs provide nearly 66 percent of their start-up funding, with the rest coming from family, friends and other informal backers. U.S. start-ups are the most likely to receive venture funding -- the United States has more than two-thirds of the world's venture capital -- but only 12 percent of the nation's fastest-growing companies received it.

The United States leads the world in the number of entrepreneurs with almost 21 million, although the percentage of U.S. adults who started or were running a new business in 2004 fell slightly to 11.3 percent (in 2003, it was 11.9 percent). Among the nations studied, the percentage of entrepreneurs ranged from 1.5 percent in Japan to 40.3 percent in Peru.

Download the 2004 GEM report at <http://www.gemconsortium.org/>.

Please visit the links on this page for more information about the Entrepreneurial Center or contact us at (256) 831-5215.

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